

Message Text

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44

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1350

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MU

SUBJECT: OMANI LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IN OMAN ARE NOTABLY STRICT. THE OMANGOV FORBIDS INDIVIDUALS OR DEALERS TO IMPORT ARMS AND AMMUNITION UNLESS THEY FIRST OBTAIN AN IMPORT LICENSE FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE OMAN POLICE. FOREIGNERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM IMPORTING HANDGUNS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS OF MORE THAN .22 CALIBER, AND CITIZENS OF OMAN CAN ONLY INZMRT OR POSSESS SUCH WEAPONS UNDER STRINGENT POLICE CONTROLS. EVEN IMPORTATION OF AIR PISTOLS IS COVERED BY POLICE REGULATIONS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS, ONLY A FEW DOZEN WEAPONS ARE IMPORTED EACH YEAR. THE OMANGOV IS PLANNING A NEW DECREE WHICH WILL MAKE IMPORTATION AND TRANSFER OF ARMS EVEN MORE REGULATED.

2. INDIVIDUALS WHO SEEK TO IMPORT WEAPONS MUST ATTAIN BOTH A PERMIT FOR CARRYING A WEAPON AND AN IMPORT LICENSE. ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION IS PERMITTED TO INDIVIDUAL GUN OWNERS. WOULD-BE ARMS DEALERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS DEALERS BEFORE OBTAINING IMPORT PERMITS, AND POLICE REGULATIONS FOR DEALERSHIP REQUIRE BURGLAR-PROOF ARMORIES AND SECURE PREMISES. THE POLICE HAVE NOT YET AUTHORIZED A SINGLE ARMS DEALER IN OMAN.

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3. LAWS ON DISPOSITION OF FIREARMS AFTER IMPORTATION ARE SIMILARLY TIGHT. LICENSES FOR INDIVIDUALS TO CARRY ARMS MUST BE UPDATED ANNUALLY. ALL LOCAL SALES OF MODERN FIREARMS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE POLICE, AND INDIVIDUAL TRANSFER OF FIREARMS IS ILLEGAL WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR POLICE PERMISSION. IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF A GUN OWNER, WEAPONS IN HIS POSSESSION MUST BE PUT IN POLICE CUSTODY AND REGISTERED AGAIN BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE HEIRS.

4. THESE LAWS DO NOT APPLY TO ANTIQUE WEAPONS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN OMAN. HOWEVER, THE POLICE ENCOURAGE OMANIS TO REGISTER WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS. EXPORT OF ANTIQUE WEAPONS REQUIRES CLEARANCE FROM POLICE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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